



**Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO Local 4900**

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August 1, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Docket 03-167

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Local 4900 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) strongly and unequivocally supports SBC's application to compete in the business of offering long distance service in Indiana.

CWA Local 4900, a statewide local in Indiana, and CWA District 4 Vice President Jeff Rechenbach join many other individuals and groups of every stripe in supporting SBC's application. CWA District 4 encompasses the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan.

CWA believes that, on the merits, the FCC should grant SBC permission to enter the long distance market at the earliest possible opportunity. SBC's entry into the long-distance market would mean that Indiana workers, businesses, taxpayers and consumers would benefit from full telecommunications competition – in both local and long-distance – just as more than 40 other states already do. These important benefits include more choices, lower rates, increased innovation and investment, and the opportunity to have all telecommunications services bundled together on one bill.

As President of Local 4900, I can testify to the consistently high quality of SBC's products and services and the importance of SBC to the economic future of working families in Indiana. SBC currently employs over 6,000 Indiana workers, including 4,000 union members. Moreover, SBC is a good corporate citizen with a very positive record of working with the CWA to preserve and expand career opportunities in our state.

I encourage the Federal Communications Commission to take the steps necessary to allow SBC to offer this service in Indiana without further delay.



If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Larry Woods, President
CWA Local 4900

Cc: Jeff Rechenbach

LW/hst/opeiu#1/afl-cio